

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

March and April 2014

From the Minister:

One of the good opportunities that comes through being minister here is the chance for close co-operation and work with local schools. In common with the other clergy in the town I am privileged to take assemblies and special services regularly in the schools and we welcome school parties on visits to the churches quite frequently. From the start of the new year up to half term I have conducted assembly four times in different schools, which is the usual rate at which these occur, and also took part in a large ecumenical service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Mary's High School attended by all the local secondary schools which was a very successful occasion. It is really encouraging to see not only all the local clergy and churches co-operate together but also be welcomed into the schools so warmly and regularly.

The latest school related project is one organised by the Down County Museum Peace III project in which all the local clergy have been interviewed, on film, about the beliefs, practices and histories of their congregations. These will be edited together to form a teaching aid available on DVD for all schools. So it is nice to be involved in such projects and good to know that our tradition is a part of them.

Again I would like to thank all our visiting preachers – particularly Sue Steers, Very Rev Bill McMillan, Rev Dr Will Patterson, and Rev Bill Haslett who have all taken services recently.

Once again congratulations go to Sue Steers who has been accepted to train for the ministry by the Presbytery of Antrim. We wish Sue every success in this work.

It is very pleasing too to welcome Ruth Rooney to the role of secretary of the Clough congregation, having taken over from Pearl Shaw who retired at the end of last year.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Saturday, 22nd February NSPCI Sunday School Games at 2.00 pm at Moneyreagh.

Sunday, 2nd March at 7.00 pm short ecumenical evening service of prayer for healing in Down Cathedral.

Monday, 3rd March Blood donation sessions, Down Parish Hall, Church Street, Downpatrick, 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm and 5.15 pm to 8.00 pm.

Tuesday, 4th March 7.00 pm Alpha Course organised by local churches, Justine's restaurant Downpatrick.

Monday, 24th March Ballee congregation AGM at 8.00 pm.

Thursday, 3rd April 7.30 pm meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at Cairncastle.

Friday, 18th April Downpatrick Churches Together Walk of Witness through Downpatrick for Good Friday.

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
2 nd March	11:15 am Sue Steers	9:45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11:15 am Rev Dr David Steers
9 th March	11:15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9:45 am Sue Steers	9:45 am Rev Dr David Steers
16 th March	11:15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9:45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11:15 am Sue Steers
23 rd March	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9:45 am Very Rev William McMillan	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
30th March	11.15 am Joint Service	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Joint Service Ballee	11.15 am Joint Service
6 th April	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
13 th April Palm Sunday	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Very Rev William McMillan
20th April Easter Sunday	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
27 th April	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Very Rev William McMillan	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers

Springtime Prayer

Give us grace, O God, lest we walk through the earth in the springtime of its loveliness with eyes unseeing and in our hearts no song. Stir within us our own true life that it may share in all the life of which it is a part. Ours is creation's joy, and ours the wonder of its everlasting newness. These blossoms while the snow still lingers! These budding branches high against the sky! This song of birds, this warmth of sunshine! This scented air, this greenness of the grass beneath our feet! Fill us, O God, as in the springtimes of our childhood, with earth's great wonder! Give us to hear again creation's song!

A. Powell Davies (*The Language of the Heart*)

Around the Fellowship

Our prayers and best wishes are with Wendy Taylor who has just come through her operation in the Ulster Hospital and with Ruby Law who has also had a spell in hospital and with all those who have been unwell or undergoing treatment recently.

Clough Secretary

On Sunday, 29th December there was a very large congregation present at Clough for the joint service which included a special presentation to Pearl Shaw who was retiring as secretary after 34 years of faithful service. The minister spoke of the tremendous skills and energy that Pearl had brought to the role which had been essential for the church and which had helped it to its present healthy condition with growing numbers, a restored church and a new hall. He presented Pearl with a gold chain on behalf of the congregation, Pearl accepted the gift and spoke of her pleasure in doing the job. Following the service refreshments were served in the hall. The congregation is also very pleased to announce that Ruth Rooney has been elected by the committee to take over as secretary. At the committee meeting on 5th February Pearl presented Ruth with a Waterman pen as she took over. We wish Pearl a very happy retirement and Ruth every success in her new appointment.

Congratulations to Eleanor Baha

Congratulations to Eleanor who was awarded the MBE for services to British commercial interests in Switzerland in the New Year Honours List. Although Eleanor is the Trade Attaché at the British Embassy in Berne she still frequently finds time to attend services in Downpatrick with her family. We send our best wishes to Eleanor on this well-deserved award.

Ballee AGM

The annual general meeting of the Ballee congregation will be on Monday, 24th March at 8.00 pm. The Clough and Downpatrick AGMs will be announced in due course.

Ballee Fundraising Events

There will be a meeting after the service on Sunday, 2nd March to arrange for a Coffee Morning and Car Wash event at Ballee. Ballee is also planning to collect old and unwanted clothes for recycling, further details will be announced.

Ballee Outdoor Bowling Club

The Club will open their 2014 season on Saturday, 12th April at 2.00 pm. New members will be very welcome.

Ballee Sunday School outing

On Thursday, 2nd January a large party went from Ballee to see 'Little Red Riding Hood' at the Waterfront Studio. Many thanks to Doreen Chambers for organising this.

Women's League Appeal

All three congregations are supporting the Women's League ballot which this year is in aid of MENCAP. Tickets are still available and cost £1 each.

Synod 2014

A reminder that this year's Synod will be held at Clough on 10th and 11th June. Further details will be announced nearer the time.

Email

If anyone would like to receive this Calendar by email please send your email address to the minister.

Macmillan Cancer Support

Macmillan Cancer Support has launched a project called Macmillan Community Helpers in Newtownards and the Ards Peninsula to provide practical help at home to people affected by cancer. Contact Rachel Loughins if you are able to help. Further details are available on a poster in the church. rloughins@macmillan.org.uk mobile 0798991770 and landline 90708610.

Downpatrick Home-Start Volunteer Team

Downpatrick Home-Start is looking for parents who can give 2-3 hours per week to support young families in their own homes. Please contact Dorothy McMullan on 44 615727 or text 0759 0849280 if you can help. A new Volunteer Prep Course starts on Friday, 7th March or email downpatrick@homestartdd.org.uk for more information. Further details are available on a notice in church.

Church Addresses

Minister: Rev Dr David Steers, 223 Upper Lisburn Road, Belfast BT10 0LL.
Tel: 028 9094 7850. Email: nspresb@hotmail.com

First Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) Church, Downpatrick

Secretary: Miss M. Stewart, 9A Buckshead Road, Downpatrick, BT30 8JB. Tel: 028 44 612309. *Treasurer:* Mrs M. McBride, 5 Orchard Road, Rathmullen, Downpatrick, BT30 8TA. Tel: 028 44 851515. *Rep Elder:* Mr R. Moffett, 73 Vianstown Road, Downpatrick BT30 8AB. Tel: 028 44 614712. *Sunday School Superintendent:* Miss M. Moffett, 73 Vianstown Road, Downpatrick BT30 8AB. Tel: 028 44 614712.

Ballee Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

Secretary: Miss J. Caven, 16 Milltown Road, Ballyhosset, Downpatrick, BT30 7EE. Tel: 028 44 842053. *Treasurer:* Mr A. Chambers, 29 Downpatrick Road, Clough, Downpatrick, BT30 8NL. Tel: 028 44 812008. *Rep Elder:* Miss J. Caven, 16 Milltown Road, Ballyhosset, Downpatrick, BT30 7EE. Tel: 028 44 842053. *Sunday School Superintendent:* Mrs D. Chambers, 29 Downpatrick Road, Clough, Downpatrick, BT30 8NL. Tel: 028 44 812008.

Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

Secretary: Mrs R. Rooney, 26A Ballykeel Road, Downpatrick BT30 8HX. Tel. Mobile: 07727153929, Home: 02844218447. *Treasurer:* Mr G. Hay, 2a Knocksticken Road, Clough, Downpatrick, BT30 8RE. 028 43 751235. *Rep Elder:* Mr D. Rooney, 32 Ballykeel Road, Downpatrick, BT30. Tel: 028 44 615287. *Sunday School Superintendent:* Miss E. Nelson, 61 Woodgrange Road, Downpatrick BT30 8JH. Email: eh_nelson@btinternet.com